Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

Study this example situation:

Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He has lost his key. (present perfect)
This means that he doesn't have his key now.

Ten minutes later:

Now Tom has found his key. He has it now.
Has he lost his key? No, he has found it.
Did he lose his key? Yes, he did.
He lost his key (past simple)
but now he has found it. (present perfect)

The present perfect (something has happened) is a present tense. It always tells us about the situation now. 'Tom has lost his key' = he doesn't have his key now (see Unit 7).
The past simple (something happened) tells us only about the past. If somebody says 'Tom lost his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do not use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- They've gone away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away now)
  They went away, but I think they're back at home now. (not They've gone)
- It has stopped raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining now)
  It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (not It has stopped)

You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- 'I've repaired the washing machine. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- 'Sally has had a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- I repaired the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (not the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart was a composer. He wrote more than 600 pieces of music.
  (not has been ... has written)
- My mother grew up in Italy. (not has grown)

Compare:

- Did you know that somebody has invented a new type of washing machine?
- Who invented the telephone? (not has invented)

We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I've burnt myself.
  B: How did you do that? (not have you done)
- A: I picked up a hot dish. (not have picked)

- A: Look! Somebody has spilt something on the sofa.
  B: Well, it wasn't me. I didn't do it. (not hasn't been ... haven't done)
Exercises

13.1 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

1. I can't get in. I've lost (lose) my key.
2. The office is empty now. Everybody (go) home.
3. I meant to call you last night, but I (forget).
4. Helen (go) to Egypt for a holiday, but she's back home in England now.
5. Are you OK? Yes, I (have) a headache, but I'm fine now.

13.2 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

1. Did you hear about Sue? She's given up her job. OK
   She's (has) given up her job.
2. My mother has grown up in Italy. grew
3. How many poems has William Shakespeare written? has been written
4. Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding. ........
5. Who has invented paper? has
6. Where have you been born? been born
7. Ellie isn't at home. She's gone shopping. ........
8. Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity. has

13.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

1. It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (it / stop)
2. The town where I live is very different now. It has changed a lot. (it / change)
3. I studied German at school, but most of it now. (I / forget)
4. The police three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
5. What do you think of my English? Do you think? (it / improve)
6. a: Are you still reading the paper? b: No, with it. You can have it. (I / finish)
7. for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
8. Where's my bike? outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
9. Quick! We need to call an ambulance. an accident. (there / be)
10. A: Have you heard about Ben? b: Really? How his arm. (he / break)
   A: (that / happen)
   b: off a ladder. (he / fall)
Present perfect and past 2 (I have done and I did)

Do not use the present perfect (I have done) when you talk about a finished time (for example, yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 2005 / when I was a child). Use a past tense:
- It was very cold yesterday. (not has been)
- Paul and Lucy arrived ten minutes ago. (not have arrived)
- Did you eat a lot of sweets when you were a child? (not have you eaten)
- I got home late last night. I was very tired and went straight to bed.

Use the past to ask When ... ? or What time ... ?:
- When did your friends arrive? (not have ... arrived)
- What time did you finish work?

Compare:

Present perfect
- Tom has lost his key. He can't get into the house.
- Is Carla here or has she left?

Past simple
- Tom lost his key yesterday. He couldn't get into the house.
- When did Carla leave?

Present perfect (have done)
- I've done a lot of work today.

We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues until now. For example: today / this week / since 2007.

Past simple (did)
- I did a lot of work yesterday.

We use the past simple for a finished time in the past. For example: yesterday / last week / from 2007 to 2010.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unfinished</th>
<th>Today</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past</td>
<td>Now</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- It hasn't rained this week.
- Have you seen Anna this morning? (it is still morning)
- Have you seen Tim recently?
- I don't know where Lisa is. I haven't seen her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- We've been waiting for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- Jack lives in Los Angeles. He has lived there for seven years.
- I have never played golf. (in my life)
- It's the last day of your holiday. You say: It's been a really good holiday. I've really enjoyed it.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unfinished</th>
<th>Yesterday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Past</td>
<td>Now</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- It didn't rain last week.
- Did you see Anna this morning? (it is now afternoon or evening)
- Did you see Tim on Sunday?
- A: Was Lisa at the party on Sunday?
- B: I don't think so. I didn't see her.
- We waited (or were waiting) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting)
- Jack lived in New York for ten years. Now he lives in Los Angeles.
- I didn't play golf last summer.
- After you come back from holiday you say: It was a really good holiday. I really enjoyed it.
Exercises

14.1 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

1. I’ve lost my key. I can’t find it anywhere. OK
2. Have you eaten a lot of sweets when you were a child? Did you eat
3. I’ve bought a new car. You must come and see it.
4. I’ve bought a new car last week.
5. Where have you been yesterday evening?
6. Lucy has left school in 1999.
7. I’m looking for Mike. Have you seen him?
8. ‘Have you been to Paris?’ ‘Yes, many times.’
9. I’m very hungry. I haven’t eaten much today.
10. When has this book been published?

14.2 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.

1. (it / not / rain / this week) It hasn’t rained this week.
2. (the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather
3. (it / cold / last week)
4. (I / not / read / a newspaper yesterday) I
5. (I / not / read / a newspaper today)
6. (Emily / earn / a lot of money / this year)
7. (she / not / earn / so much / last year)
8. (you / have / a holiday recently?)

14.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

1. ‘What’s Madrid like?’ ‘I don’t know. I haven’t been there.’
2. When I get home last night, I was very tired and I went straight to bed.
3. a: (you / see) Lisa recently?
   b: Yes, I saw her a few days ago.
4. I’m tired. I didn’t sleep well last night.
5. The bus drivers were on strike last week. There were no buses.
6. Mr Lee worked in a bank for 15 years. Then he gave it up. Now he works as a gardener.
7. Mary lives in Dublin. She has lived there all her life.
8. a: (you / go) to the cinema last night?
   b: Yes, but it was a mistake. The film was awful.
9. My grandfather died before I was born. I have never met him.
10. I don’t know Karen’s husband. I have never met him.
11. It’s nearly lunchtime, and I haven’t seen Martin all morning. I wonder where he is.
12. ‘Where do you live?’ ‘In Boston.’
   ‘How long have you lived there?’ ‘Five years.’
   ‘Where did you live before that?’ ‘In Chicago.’
   ‘And how long have you lived in Chicago?’ ‘Two years.’

14.4 Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

1. (something you haven’t done today) I haven’t eaten any fruit today.
2. (something you haven’t done today)
3. (something you didn’t do yesterday)
4. (something you did yesterday evening)
5. (something you haven’t done recently)
6. (something you’ve done a lot recently)